

Appl. No. 10/057,111
Amdt. dated July 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2006

Atty. Ref. 81800.0180
Customer No. 26021

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Extension of Time/Request for Continued Examination

A request for continued examination (RCE) and a one month extension of time are enclosed in response to the final office action mailed on March 22, 2006. The extended period for response expires on July 22, 2006.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 were presented. Claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended. Claims 6, 7, 14 and 20 are canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 15-19 are now pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Langford (US 6,266,420) in view of Susaki (US 6,253,322). In response, independent claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended to clearly distinguish over Langford and Susaki. Claim 1, for example, is amended to recite encryption of a session key (which is used to encrypt data to be emailed) using a common key, wherein:

...each common key is generated by an ID-based Non-Interactive Key Sharing Scheme utilizing a public key based on a receiver's email address and a secret key based on a sender's email address...

Claims 9 and 15 include similar recitations. As described in applicant's specification, since the claimed system (ID-NIKS) does not need to exchange a public key and a secret key between a sender and a receiver and there is no need of a key list or a service by a third party, the communication can be established safely between any users. Moreover, since there is no need for a preliminary communication between sender and receiver, the scheme is convenient for all users.

In applicant's previous amendment, independent claims 1, 9 and 15 were amended to recite generation of the common key using a public key and a secret key. The Action acknowledges that Langford fails to disclose generation of a

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common key based on a public key and a secret key, but asserts that Susaki discloses this feature at column 6, lines 29-56. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited passage of Susaki discloses that a common key is shared between service suppliers and receivers, but does not disclose that the common key is generated based on a public key and a secret key. Moreover, Susaki states "...first, the service suppliers and receivers exchange their certificates...", thereby acknowledging that a preliminary communication between sender and recipient is required. As discussed above, one of the advantages of applicant's claimed common key generation scheme is that no such preliminary communication is required.

Applicant has further amended claims 1, 9 and 15 to specify that the common key is generated by an ID-based Non-Interactive Key Sharing Scheme, wherein the common key is generated using a public key based on the receiver's email address and a secret key based on the sender's email address. There is clearly no disclosure or suggestion of such a feature in Langford, Susaki or any other of the references of record.

Since Langford and Susaki do not disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 1, 9 and 15, it cannot render those claims or claims dependent thereon obvious. The rejections under 35 USC 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment.

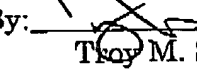
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Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No.
50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: July 10, 2006

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